

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the specification. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 15. Claims 5 and 15 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Solic. Claim 1 has been amended and now incorporates the elements of former claim 2. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

The Examiner has advised that claims 2-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 3-23 have been amended.

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, and 3-23 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the claims as presented are patentable over the references cited, taken either singly or in combination.

Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Günter MARTIN (PCT)

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicant

RWG/mh

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 25, 2003

Ingrid Mittendorf

R:\Patents\G\MARTIN, G (PCT)\Amend 1st OA.wpd

R:\Patents\G\MARTIN, G (PCT)\Amend 1st OA.wpd

-13-